

THE PROGRESSIVE FARMER

and The Cotton Plant.

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The Progressive Farmer

AND THE COTTON PLANT.
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THOUGHTS FOR FARMERS.

Land Too High for Farmers.

When does land become too valuable for farming purposes? That question demands an answer from some people. A few days ago a farmer said: "I have been offered \$40 an acre for sixty acres of land. I think I shall sell and invest in stocks or bonds that will pay a certain income. I can't afford to farm on land at that price. A few years ago I paid \$9 an acre for it." That land was out of reach of town limits. It cannot be cut into building lots. That was a good farmer. He had improved his land which was much run down when he bought it. He deserved the increment in price. But should a farmer sell his land when it reaches such a value that he can make more money by investing otherwise? We answer in the negative unless in the case of real estate dealers who buy to sell again. Farmers should not sell their land unless they are land poor. If by improving the soil the prices rises, keep on with the improvement, so that it will be profitable to cultivate land worth \$100 an acre. Then the value of a comfortable home, neat, attractive, the rallying place of children cannot be estimated in dollars. Do not sell if you can hold and improve and beautify.

Starting Right.

This is the time to plan and prepare for the next crop. The wise farmer after sowing small grain liberally will then set aside his land for special crops. That being settled all his work will harmonize with that plan. The best preparation for any hoed crop is subsoiling thoroughly before the first of February. December is the best month, when it is dry enough. But subsoiling, or very deep preparation, is a slow business. Next best to that is to take a "middle buster" and with two horses lay off cotton land at once. Another furrow may be run in that during the winter, breaking more of the clay.

In preparing corn land run the furrows two feet apart and as deep as the plow can be sent. This "middle buster" will throw up high ridges, but the freezes will finish the work. A cutaway harrow will level and pulverize these ridges in the spring. Thorough preparation early in the winter will hold all the plant food in the soil and prevent damages by heavy rains and double the yield.

Timely Suggestions.

Add to the family orchard by setting out a few good fruit trees this winter. Do it early in the season. If old trees are failing somewhat, trim them judiciously and scatter half decayed leaves from ravines around them. Ashes are also help-

ful. A few loads of rich earth, especially pine needles, will give new life to trees. See that stables are comfortable and that the cattle have ample protection against the cold. Decide what new implements will be needed and get them at once. Lay in plows and hoes so that no time will be lost when they are needed. Winter is generally the best time for ditching lowlands. This should not be put off till planting. Make the kitchen the most comfortable room in the house. Wife and daughters, or the cook, have to spend most of their time there. A warm, handy kitchen contributes to the peace of a family.

Contented Farmers.

Never have the farmers of Piedmont been as well satisfied as they are this year. They are not burdened with debts. One result of their easy condition is that up to the middle of November not a bushel of corn was offered for sale on this market. That shows that the farmers are not pressed for money. There will be much corn for sale, but they are in no hurry to get it off their hands. There is no grumbling on any account. They are on upgrade and many of them are improving their methods every year.

CHARLES PETTY.

Spartanburg Co., S. C.

What Pitt County Farmers are Doing.

Messrs. Editors: I enjoy your paper so much that I want you to know that I do. Especially do I appreciate its editorial and comments upon current topics. North Carolina surely needs more such editors—editors who do not try to fool the people; editors who are willing to tell the truth though it hurts; editors who can appreciate a good thing, even should it be advocated by one of a different political faith. I thank you for the paper you gave us the last three months; in fact, I have nearly ever admired the paper and its editor. I wish your subscription could be quadrupled in North Carolina. It would be such a source of pleasure and profit to its many readers.

Corn is coming in better than was expected. Cotton is a fair crop where it had been properly fertilized and worked. I planted eight acres in cotton and shall gather eight five-hundred pound bales. Tobacco is an average crop, and is bringing a tolerably good price. We sold last week \$102 worth of fair tobacco, and it cost five dollars to sell it. Does no one except a warehouse man know that the charge was excessive?

One peculiarity of the people of Pitt County is their fondness for barbecue. In the village of Farmville from three to five pigs, weighing from thirty to seventy pounds gross, are sold every Saturday. We get for these pigs eight cents per pound live weight. Even at this price our farmers are not able to supply the demand, and some are shipped here from Richmond, Va.

Hired labor is exceedingly scarce in these parts. Every one wants to crop on shares. We can scarcely get fire wood cut. But most of our crops are housed, and it may be that there will be some labor from now till Christmas.

A. J. MOYE.

Pitt Co., N. C.

NOW FOR THE WINTER COURSES.

It is only slightly over a month when the winter courses in agriculture and dairying will be opened at the A. & M. College. These courses are intended only for farmers. There are no entrance examinations. There is no tuition. Everything is free to the farmers of the State, except board, room and fuel. The total cost for these for the ten weeks is but thirty dollars. If you wish to study your work; understand the soil and how to fertilize and improve it; how to feed and breed animals; how to make butter; how to judge farm animals and farm crops; and to study the various details of practical work on the farm, you ought to spend ten weeks at the farmers' college. You can readily get away from home during the winter months, and meeting with other farmers and talking with them about our farm problems, immense good will come to you and to the agriculture of the State. You better arrange early for this course. Talk with a friend or two and see if you all can't come. If you have any questions, write C. W. Burkett, Raleigh, N. C., and receive full particulars. Let's all be off to the Winter Course.

A WORD TO OUR SUBSCRIBERS.

In sending out statements to our subscribers a few weeks ago, our clerk mixed things fearfully, and some subscribers were dunned for more than they owed, and others perhaps for less than they owed—though naturally we haven't heard so much kicking from the latter class.

But the court of last resort in all such cases is the date on your label. That shows when your "time is out" and from this you may calculate the amount due us.

It is very important, if we are to continue the improvements we have planned, that renewals be sent in promptly. Whether or not, Mr. Delinquent, you have received a notice, and whether or not the notice was correct, look at the date on the little red slip and send your renewal. Let us not start the new year with an old debt between us.

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